

S. 830 is not just about the reform or modernization of a Federal agency. The activities of the FDA effect every single one of us, every single day. Whether it is taking an aspirin or brushing our teeth the FDA was involved. It ensured that the aspirin and the toothpaste was safe and effective. The FDA manufacturing standards protect these products so that we can feel confident that they were not contaminated or tampered with prior to our purchase.

The agency is also involved in making sure that new technology to diagnosis or screen for life-threatening illnesses is reliable and that the claims made by the manufacturer are consistent with the available technology. The FDA must also ensure the safety and effectiveness of all drugs as well. When we pick up a prescription like an antibiotic at the pharmacy, we never think twice about the safety or effectiveness of the drug. We simply assume that if taken properly it is safe and effective at treating an ear infection. It is because of the success of the FDA that we do take so much of this for granted.

This is not to say that there have not been problems in the past. But, I believe the changes and improvements made by S. 830 addresses some of these problems and that the commitment made by the chairman to maintain aggressive and effective oversight of the agency will prevent significant problems in the future. I know that there are some who are skeptical of the reforms and modernization called for in this legislation and they point to past problems at the agency as their proof. I am not dismissing past mistakes by the FDA, but I also do not believe we can allow the past errors to paralyze the agency. We have to move toward the future, and learn from the mistakes of the past.

The agency has been given a daunting task with limited resources. However, it has become obvious over the years that a major modernization was necessary in order to keep pace with the rapid changes in drugs and devices and the globalization of the biotech industry. In 1992 the Prescription Drug User Fee Act [PDUFA], the partnership between the agency and the prescription drug industry, was enacted. This major effort has proven to be a major success for the FDA, industry, and patients. I am pleased that we were able to include reauthorization of PDUFA in S. 830 that builds on the success of the 1992 legislation.

I am pleased that we have completed this process and are sending a solid, bipartisan bill to the President for signature. I am confident that enactment of S. 830, FDA Modernization and Accountability Act will prove to be one of the major accomplishments of the 105th Congress. I know that I am proud to have been directly involved in the development of this legislation.

I look forward to working with Chairman JEFFORDS and Senator KENNEDY in the same bipartisan manner as we tackle other public health reform initiatives.●

JONES ACT WAIVER—S. 1349

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation agreed to be discharged from further consideration of S. 1349. The bill would waive the U.S. build and prior U.S. ownership requirements of the coastwise trade laws and allow the ferry *Prince Nova* to be employed in the coastwise trade.

Usually, Jones Act waiver bills such as S. 1349 are first considered by the Commerce Committee, and subsequently included in Coast Guard authorization legislation for final passage. In this case, the Commerce Committee did not have an opportunity to consider S. 1349 during the Committee's last executive session of this year. The Senator from Connecticut, however, requested the opportunity to have the Senate adopt the bill before the end of the first session.

Mr. President, the bill meets the Commerce Committee's usual criteria for adopting such waivers. Senator HOLLINGS, the ranking member of the Commerce Committee, and I agreed to request the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that the Senator from Connecticut's request could be accommodated.●

HAWAII'S EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG PATRIOTISM

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, the Honolulu Star Bulletin's weekly article, "Hawaii's World," written by one of Hawaii's most respected journalist, A. A. (Bud) Smyser, commemorated Veterans Day with an article entitled, "Hawaii's Exceptionally Strong Patriotism." This article appeared in the Thursday, November 6, 1997 edition. I ask that Mr. Smyser's article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Honolulu Star Bulletin, Nov. 6, 1997]

HAWAII'S EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG PATRIOTISM (By A.A. Smyser)

For Veterans Day next Tuesday, I have a message from on high. The Defense Department's top officer in this half of the world calls Hawaii "the most patriotic community I know."

Adm. Joseph W. Prueher said that to a Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii lunch in July. He reiterated it recently when I asked for amplification.

He has been CINPAC (commander-in-chief Pacific) since January 1996, dealt with a lot of community matters, watched the turnouts of political and community leaders for Military Appreciation Week in May (which few if any other communities have), Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor anniversary events.

He also is fully aware of the World War II contributions of Hawaii's soldiers of Japanese ancestry fighting to prove their loyalty. He is impressed by the still-continuing reunions of those groups with sons and daughters pledged to carry on.

He knows there are scratchy points in military-community relations such as the Makua Valley beach landing exercise, which he called off at the request of Governor

Cayetano and leaders of the Leeward Oahu community.

But he has faith the community remains behind the essential use of Hawaii facilities to train fighting forces. He works closely with Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, who says "this community pulls out the stops for the military more than any place I've ever seen."

He's a Navy man, of course, who sees more of our mainland coasts than inland, but his Army deputy, Lt. Gen. Joseph DeFrancisco, concurs. The only place DeFrancisco can think of that comes close to matching us in showing its patriotism is the Gulf Coast area of Georgia around Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. Our Navy League chapter of 5,000 is the biggest in the U.S.

Servicemen in Hawaii get stickers for their ID cards that entitle them to kamaaina discounts in Waikiki or elsewhere. They also get auto license discounts and reduced tuition at the University of Hawaii.

There's a two-way street, of course. The armed services are among the very best Aloha United Way contributors. They provide emergency medical airlifts and rescues at sea, are prompt with community disaster relief. They have adopted 130 public and private schools for renovation help and grounds cleaning. They recently gave six schools 205 computers.

They host the Special Olympics for children with disabilities, serve as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, help tutor children in all grades, and dig in for projects like litter cleanup around Diamond Head. They co-host Hydrofest, join in community parades and open their bases for visitation. Veterans' medical facilities at Tripler Army Medical Center are first-rate.

Hawaii's high cost of living is a concern for many service people, alleviated by the fact that 78 percent are housed on base. Past criticisms of our schools seem to have eased with more military-community interaction.

Most land use concerns have been quieted by creation of a joint military-civilian task force to review military needs and relinquish unneeded properties.

Makua is the current hot potato. The canceled beach landing would have been a first, but continuing use of the valley itself as a weapons training area remains a high priority need to the military, an intrusion to the civilian critics.

It is the kind of thing the governor and other top civilian officials will have to weigh carefully in light of the \$3.4 billion annual military spending here that is based heavily on our year-round training capability for all services.●

MAMMOGRAPHY QUALITY STANDARDS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate yesterday passed S. 537, the 5-year reauthorization of the Mammography Quality Standards Act. The original statute, now 5 years old, passed in 1992 with broad bipartisan support. Through the tireless efforts of Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, the lead sponsor of the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act, we will be able to continue this critical program for women's health.

Prior to the passage of this legislation, breast tumors in women were often missed because of defective x ray equipment or inadequately trained personnel. Today, to operate lawfully, a mammography facility must be certified as providing quality mammography services. That means that a national uniform quality standard for